Investment by Foreign Institutional Investors

1024. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether R.B.I.'s decision to permit investment by Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) in the Mumbai-based Mid-day group was against 1955 Cabinet Resolution on foreign equity in the print media;

(b) if so, whether she has asked the Finance Ministry to clarify the position in this regard, as reported in the Hindustan Times, dated 16th February, 2001; and

(c) what steps Govemment propose to take to ensure that foreign investors do not influence such publications when difference between FDI and FII is really very thin?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Ministry of Finance has issued necessary directions/clarifications to Reserve Bank of India that no foreign investment of any kind is permitted in the print media sector.

DD dues against producers and agencies

† 1025. SHRIMATI SAROJ DUBEY: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether amount to the tune of crores of rupees of Doordarshan is outstanding against various producers and agencies;

(b) if so, the names of such persons along with the amount outstanding against each of them;

(c) whether Govemment are contemplating any effective steps to recover the outstanding amount from such persons;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Details are given in the annexed Statement. (See below)

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.